

## **Complete Versatility:**

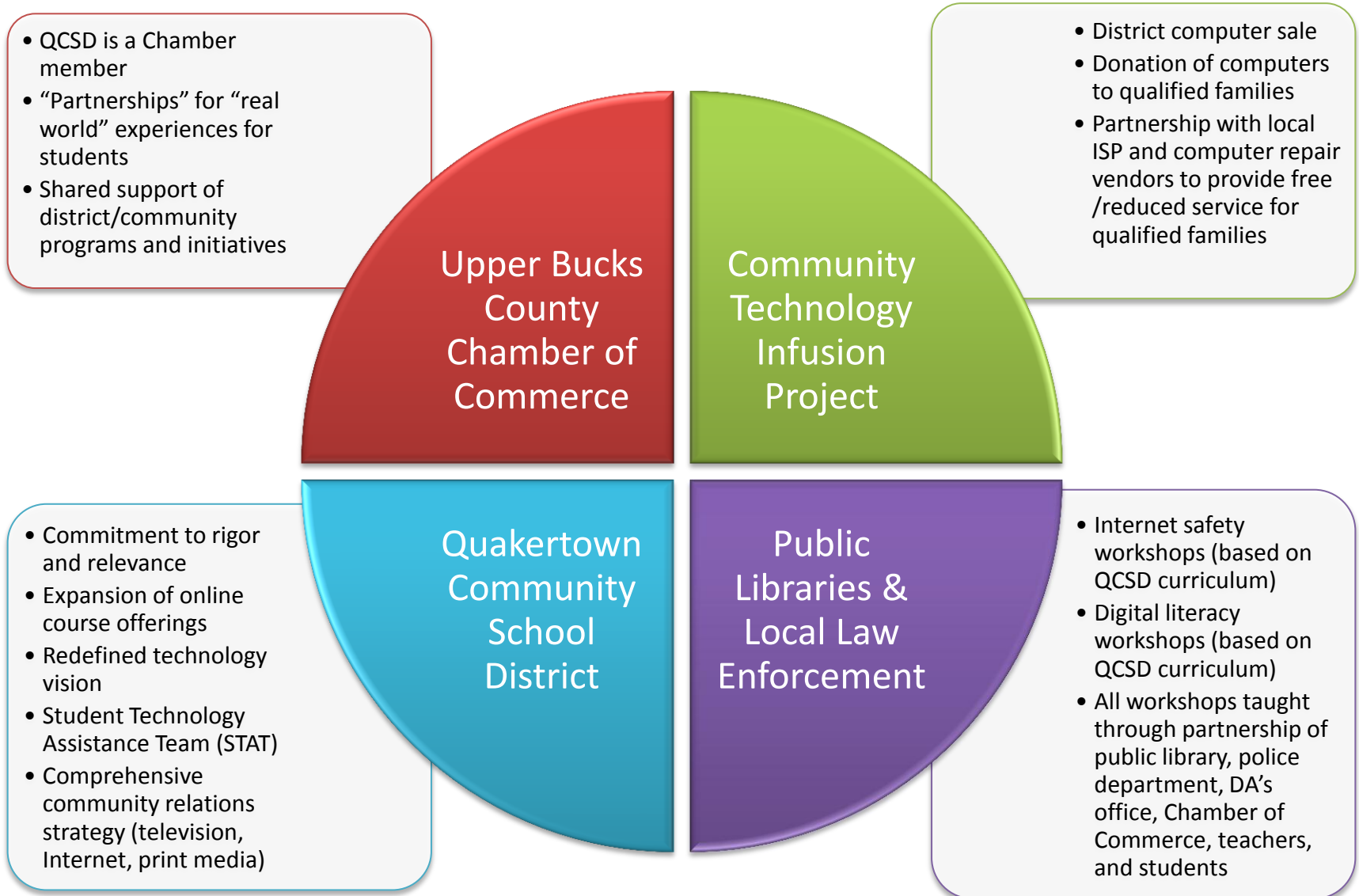
*Online and Blended Learning in a 1:1 High School Environment*



***November 10, 2011***

# Quakertown Community School District

## - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Support Strategy -





***QCSD Cyber Program***

***21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative***

***Learning Management System***

***Requests for Assistance***

***Vision for the future***

## Overview

- **Philosophy**
  - *Support vision of anytime, anywhere learning*
  - *Flexible, more customized learning paths for students*
- **Cost avoidance**
- ***Flavors of cyber program***
  - *Online learning available to all students in grades 6-12*
  - *Some students participate fully outside of brick and mortar school*
  - *Some students take face-to-face courses and fully online course (outside of school or in school cyber lounge)*

## Curriculum

- **Moving all courses to BlendedSchools**
  - *QCSD curriculum taught by QCSD teachers*
  - *Over 50 courses available in a fully online format (grades 6-12)*
- **Building all courses from scratch**
  - *Standards-based (competency-based) model*
  - *Mirrors content and pacing of QCSD face-to-face courses*
  - *Quality-assurance framework established based on iNACOL quality standards*



- **Challenges**

- *Rapid implementation*
- *Professional development*
- *Administrative logistics*

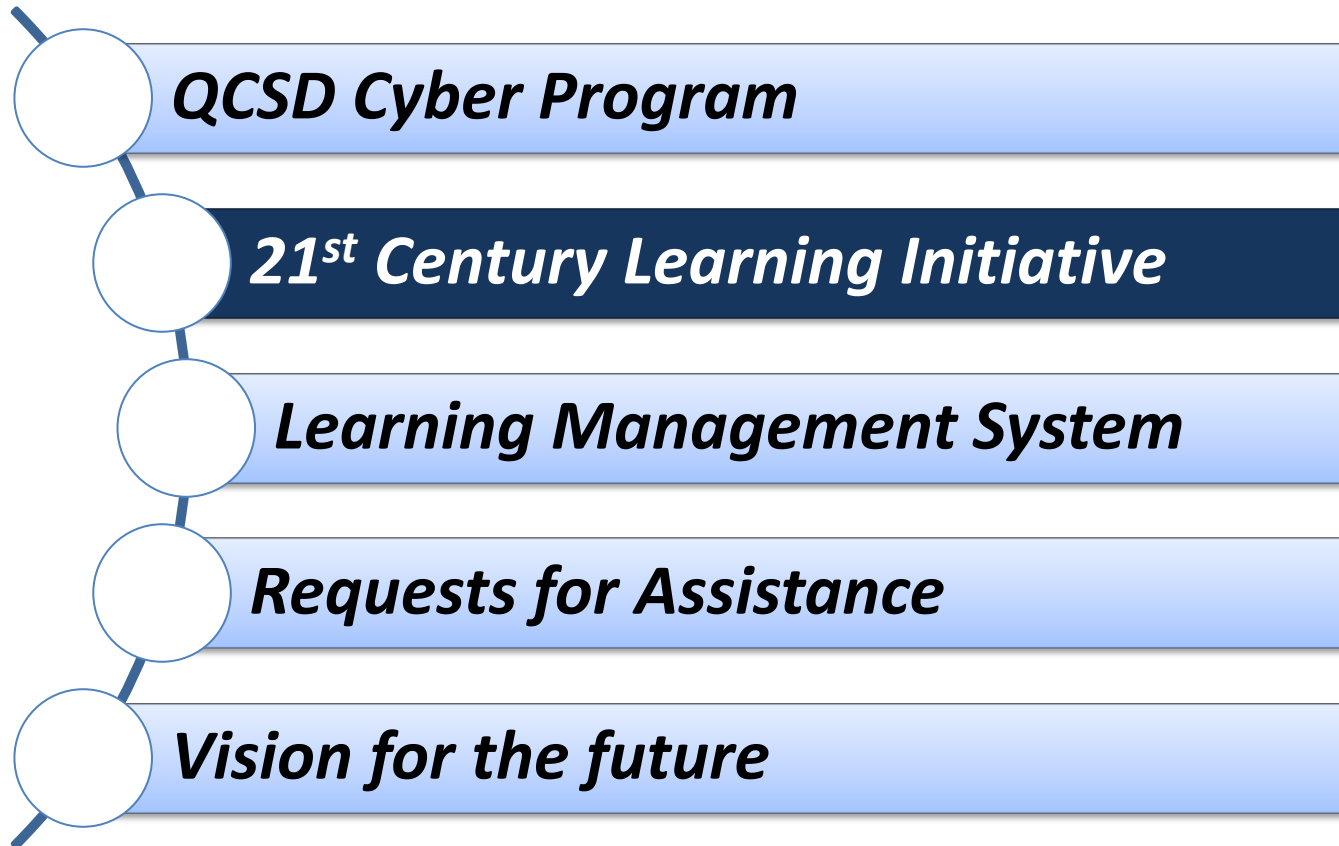
- **Successes**

- *Personalized options for students*
- *Supports competency-based learning*
- *Enhanced support for technology vision*
- *Cost-avoidance (more than \$250,000 per year)*



## QCSD Cyber Program

	2009-10	2010-11
Number of cyber courses offered	317	506
Number of students participating in cyber program	91	140
High school	91	110
Middle school	0	28
Elementary school	0	2
Number of students taking 5-9 courses (high school students only)	33	12
Number of students taking 1-4 courses	58	128
Number of students not choosing cyber charter schools	23	27
Savings from cyber charter school expenditures	\$275,000	\$297,000
Program expenses (hardware, software, salaries, etc.)	\$209,594	\$158,500
<b>Total savings (cost avoidance)</b>	<b>\$65,406</b>	<b>\$138,500</b>





# ***Technology Leadership Team***



## Vision Statement

*In support of the Quakertown Community School District (QCSD) mission statement, we believe that technology is a tool for learning that expands the QCSD instructional repertoire and is the vehicle that maximizes the capacity of all teachers and learners. It is the vision of QCSD that students be engaged in technology rich learning environments that advance student collaboration, creativity, and authentic learning.*

Specifically, we envision that technology is available and effectively supported for all students and staff:

- *To provide access to information... "anytime, anywhere"*
- *To meet the curricular needs of all learners*
- *To refine critical thinking skills and foster creativity*
- *To provide a medium for expression and communication*
- *To collect, assess, and share performance information*
- *To improve the effectiveness of administrative tasks*
- *To develop skills and proficiencies necessary for the workforce*

## Scope of QCSD Instructional Technology

### Elementary Level:

- Increased access to computers will be provided through the adoption of netbook computers on carts. These shared carts may be used for large or small group instruction based on the needs of each building at any particular time.
- Dedicated desktop computers will be provided for appropriate support classrooms as determined by the building level and central office administration.
- Some laptop or netbook computers will be dedicated for use by individual students participating in cyber courses.

## Scope of QCSD Instructional Technology

### Middle School Level:

- Increased access to computers will be provided through the adoption of netbook computers on carts. These shared carts may be used for large or small group instruction based on the needs of each building at any particular time.
- Dedicated desktop computers will be provided for appropriate support classrooms as determined by the building level and central office administration.
- Some laptop or netbook computers will be dedicated for use by individual students participating in cyber courses or district alternative educational settings.

## Scope of QCSD Instructional Technology

### High School Level:

- Each student will have 24/7 access to computer technology through the assignment of a district-owned netbook computer or through the utilization of personal computing devices.
- Dedicated desktop computers will be provided for appropriate classroom labs and support classrooms as determined by the building level and central office administration.
- Some laptop or netbook computers will be dedicated for use by individual students participating in cyber courses or district alternative educational settings.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative

## Implementation Timeline

<b>April 2010:</b>	Board direction to move forward with the initiative
<b>May 2010:</b>	Refinement of the goals of the initiative Formation of a steering committee in the Freshman Center
<b>June 2010:</b>	Needs analysis to identify professional development needs and staff concerns Conversations with Best Buy of Quakertown
<b>July 2010:</b>	Teacher professional development <i>(faculty meetings, non-instructional days, miscellaneous meetings and conversations)</i>
<b>August 2010:</b>	Summer Institute for Freshman Center staff
<b>Sept. 2010:</b>	Communication of expectations to students <i>(conducted during "PRIDE" periods)</i> Q&A session with parents at Back to School Night
<b>October 2010:</b>	Faculty in-service on Blackboard and teacher expectations Netbook distribution
<b>January/June 2011:</b>	Student and teacher feedback survey

## Goal areas:

### 1. Student engagement

*(motivation, attendance, etc.)*

### 2. Student learning

*(increased strategic and extended thinking – direct relationship to SBG)*

### 3. Instructional practices

*(re-examination of teaching methods and strategies, efficiency)*

### 4. Resource utilization

*(reduce costs over time - paper, textbooks/workbooks, etc.)*



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative

## First Year Measurements of progress/success

**73%** of teachers feel that the initiative has increased student engagement

**66%** of teachers feel that students work more collaboratively

**73%** of teachers responded indicating that they have been enabled to teach in a more student-centered and interactive manner

**60%** of teachers feel that the initiative has increased student academic success

**80%** of teachers have indicated that this initiative has caused them to re-examine their teaching methods and strategies

**86%** of teachers indicate that they will be more efficient in the future as a result of moving their course content online

### Frequency of use of digital resources

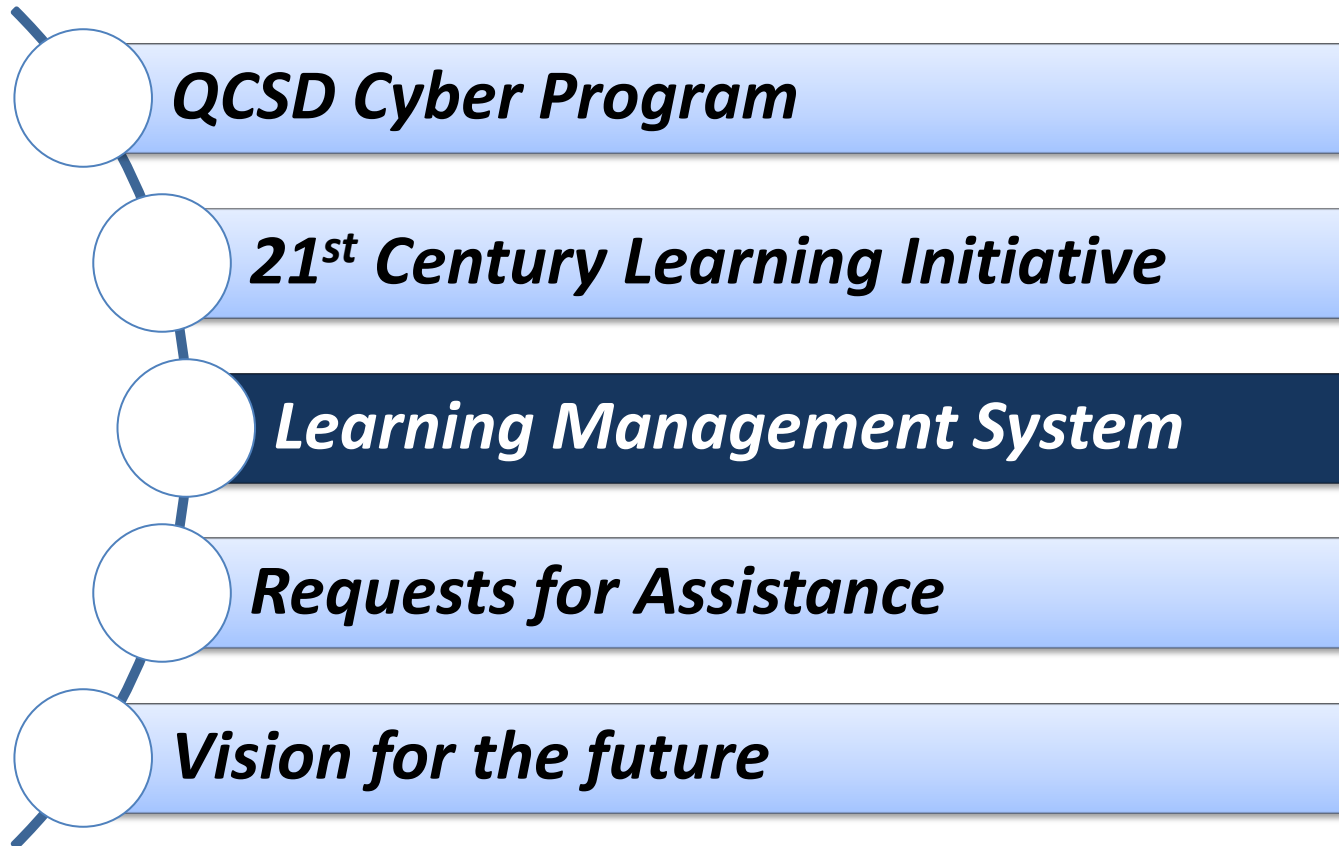
Students (87% at least weekly)		Teachers (100% daily)	
7%	Multiple times per day	53%	Multiple times per day
40%	Once per day	47%	Once per day
40%	Once per week		



## First Year Measurements of progress/success

### Student uses of netbooks:

Online textbook	57%
Online quizzes or tests	62%
Current events	75%
Word processing	44%
Project creation	85%
Collaboration	47%
Online discussions	60%
Finding resources (pictures, videos, etc)	87%
Online research	88%
Communication with individuals outside of the classroom	13%
Electronic/paperless/digital submission of assignments	74%



# *Learning Management System*



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# Learning Management System

## 2010-11

- **Use of BlendedSchools at the Freshman Center - (blended learning)**
  - *Expectations for teacher use*
  - *Professional development to accomplish expectations*

## 2011-12

- **Use of BlendedSchools at the Freshman Center and High School - (blended learning)**
  - *Expectations for teacher use*
  - *Professional development to accomplish expectations*
- **Use of BlendedSchools at the two middle schools - (blended learning)**
  - *Expectations for teacher use*
  - *Professional development to accomplish expectations*

## Blended Classroom Environment

1. Announcements
2. Learning Targets
3. Assessment Submission
4. Videos – visual/differentiation
5. Screencasting – recording lessons
6. Formative Assessments
7. Articles of the Week
8. Online Discussions
9. Make-up work
10. Remediation



### **Article of the week**



**September 26 Article of the Week**



**Article for the Week of October 3**

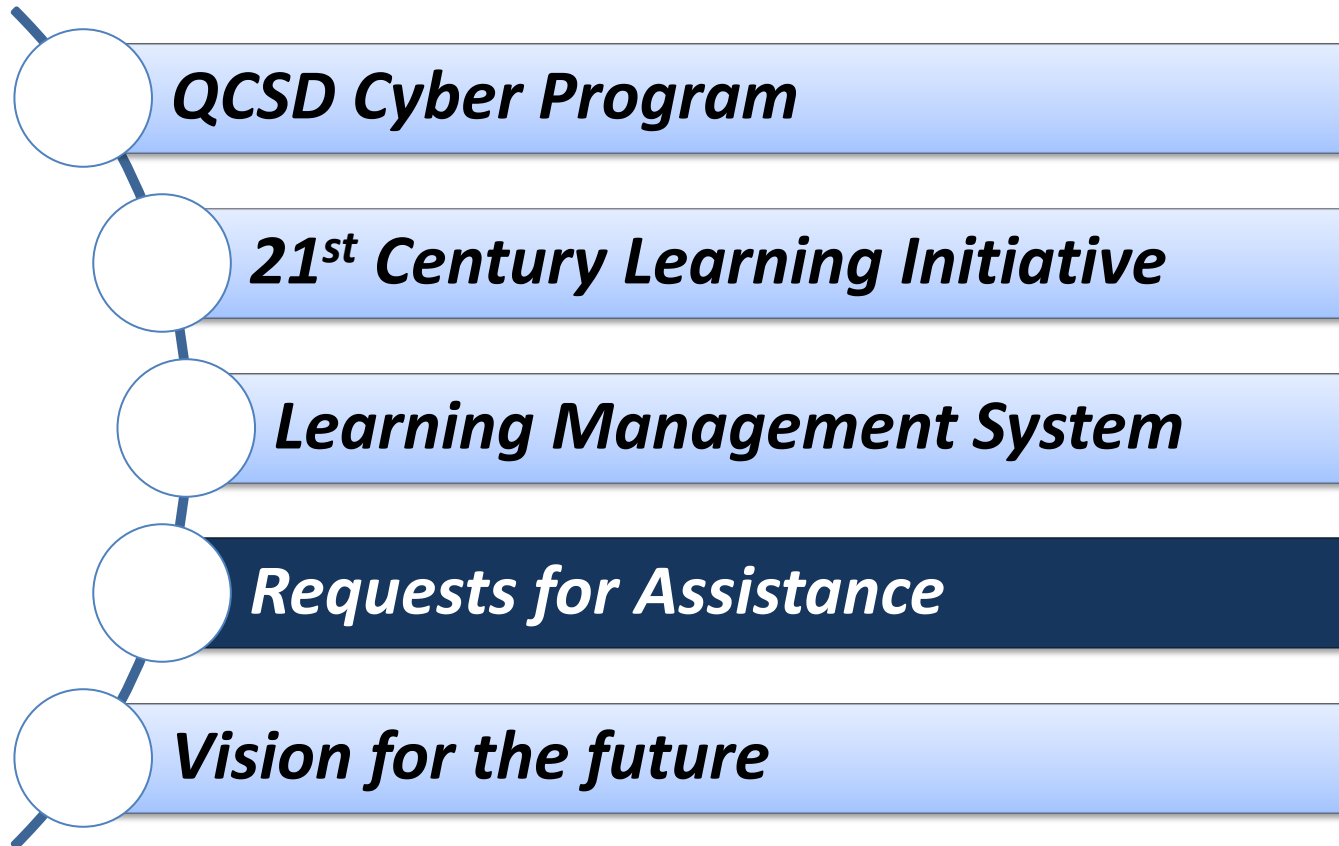


**Article of the week of October 10**

## The QCSD “Master Course Template”

- *Currently used for all new fully online courses*
- *Will be used in the future by all secondary teachers in a blended learning environment*
- *Provides a framework for teachers that ensures the inclusion of required course components*
- *Reduces learning curve for new teachers of online or blended courses*
- *Provides consistency for students*





## 2010-11

- *QCSD received requests from 14 school districts seeking advice or assistance with respect to offering online courses to their own students*
- *Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 developed a task force to investigate a regional solution to address school districts' needs for online learning*

## 2011-12

- *QCSD and Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 form a “partnership” called **Bridges Virtual Education Services** to provide online learning solutions to schools in the southeastern Pennsylvania region*
- *Interest has grown beyond the region*





[\*http://www.bridgesvirtual.org\*](http://www.bridgesvirtual.org)

## Services Offered:

- *Virtual program development and implementation services*
- *Virtual course offerings*
- *Professional development focused on virtual course design and facilitation*

***November 10, 2011***



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## **Vision:**

- Anytime, anywhere learning...eliminate barriers for students
- As the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative progresses, teaching and learning will be redefined to be more efficient and targeted
- Cyber course options will no longer be viewed as a new or separate opportunity...they will become our regular program
- QCSD program will continue to improve as Bridges Virtual shares expertise and experiences of other school districts

***This vision is aligned to the redefined vision  
of the Technology Leadership Team.***

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